

## TALENTED STUDENTS' PROGRAMS IN JORDAN :REALITY AND EXPECTATIONS

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### **Abstract**

Talented Students started to receive educational services in Jordan in the late 1980s. This paper shows a glance at the Talented students' programs in Jordan with its three branches, which are (a) Pioneer centers, (b) Overall school enrichment program and (c) king Abdullah the 2nd talented schools. Talented students in Jordan were highlighted in order to put Talented students in Jordan within its proper framework. Additionally, the Talent Theories was revised in detail. Finally, propositions were presented in order to develop the present situation in the future.

**Keywords:** Talented students' programs in Jordan, Al-Madinah Program, Concurrent thinking theory

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## Introduction

A student who exhibits high performance in one potentiality or more compared to his/her group of the same age. These potentialities include general mental abilities, creativity, artistic, leadership, and special academic. This study used talent not giftedness whereas the giftedness refers to an outstanding compound of aptitudes in one or more of human potentials; intellectual, emotional, and psychomotor that can be burnished through supportive environment, achievement motivation and practicing. While the talent refers to an outstanding performance due to distinguished compound of aptitudes bonded through the direct and indirect effects of nurturing in one or more of human fields; arts, sports, leadership, business, oration, and music... etc (Al-maayteh, et,2004).

## Talent Theories

There are many theories that discuss talent aspects (Al-Horob,1999; Jarwan, 2008), Its as Guilford's theory of structure of intellect, Taylor's model of multiple talents, Renzulli's Three-Ring Model of Giftedness, Monks' triadic interdependence model for talent, Feldhusen's talent identification and development in education model, Gardner's multiple intelligences, Gardner's multiple intelligences, Tannenbaum's who, what, and how of giftedness, Sternberg's successful intelligence, and Abdeen's concurrent thinking.

The theory of concurrent thinking is a new theory that adds to the patterns of thinking a new pattern. Concurrent thinking is defined as the process of thinking about multiple topics at the same time (i.e., simultaneously doing more than one mental process), thereby processing more than one task at a time. This type of thinking is conducted with high proficiency (Abdeen,2015). Concurrent thinking is a new addition to the styles of thinking that go

along with the developments of time and fast changes. In terms of knowledge and technological progress, many individuals have higher skills and better capabilities that match the time of theory. Therefore, the best means of investing these capabilities and energies are located within the synchronized thinking style, which meets the needs of the talented and the creative (Abdeen, 2014).

### **Talented students in Jordan**

Paying special attention to talented students is not new in Jordan. Al-Maayta and Al-Bowaliz (2000), stated that teaching talented students in Jordan started in 1980 when the Al-Salat Reconstruction Institute adopted a special project to discover talented students at the high school level from the Al-Salat District.

A specialized institute was founded in the district in 1984, where the program started to provide students with enriching and creative activities. Many programs have existed for talented students in Jordan. These programs include the Al-Hussain prize for the youth, which started in 1984, and Jubilee schools, which was launched in 1993 with a continuous focus on talented people (Al-Maayta and Al-Bowaliz 2004). An independent department for talent programs was also initiated at the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Jordan in 2011 after it became a division of the department of outstanding and talented students. This initiation is a response to the increased need of talented students. This department was also established to provide the best services while offering programs, such as pioneering centers and rooms of resources for talented students.

These initiations and programs were conducted in schools provided with special education facilities, qualified teachers, and executive staff to receive and train outstanding and talented students. The students find enriching experiences in these centers in science, math, and Arabic

and English languages. They also find creative activities and special interests in the fields of computer, music, arts, scientific trips, and laboratory experiments. The first program for talented students in the Al-Salat district was offered in 1996/1997.

The number of pioneering centers increased to 19 in the different governorates of the Jordanian kingdom. The 2011/2012 statistics indicate that more than 2,372 male and female students taught by 328 male and female teachers are currently benefiting from the program. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education intends to initiate a pioneering center in every directorate among the directorates of education in the coming years (El-Zraigat, 2012).

### **Talented students' programs**

The focus of the Ministry of Education on outstanding students originated from a comprehensive process that emerged from the thought of His Majesty King Abdullah II and the recommendations of successive educational conferences, which confirmed the following:

- a. focusing attention on scientific and social activities for students, thus enhancing student development according to mental ability, skill and education requirements, and personality;
- b. developing the outstanding student's personality from all aspects in a balanced and integrated manner;
- c. developing the scientific research and stability of students in various levels of study;
- d. developing capacities and creative talents and conducting scientific programs for investment in achievement and work (Jordanian Ministry of Education, 2013).

The programs for talented or gifted students presented by the Ministry of Education are presented as follows:

**(a) Pioneer centers**

Pioneer centers are schools equipped with suitable educational facilities and with administrative and teaching staff qualified to receive and train outstanding students in the elementary eighth stage (grade) according to special standards. Lessons in these types of schools occur outside school hours (2:00 PM to 5:00 PM), where students are given different experiences in science, mathematics, English, and Arabic, in addition to creative activities and interests, particularly in the field of computer, music, art, scientific visits, and laboratory tests.

**(b) Overall school enrichment program**

This program started in the beginning of the academic year 2002/2003 in areas where no chances of taking care of talented students are provided. The planning committee agreed to this program and the number of resource rooms reached 42 by 2010/2011. This program provides educational (pedagogical) services for talented students during school hours. This objective is fulfilled by providing full- or part-time classes, including singing activities conducted by students with the help of their teachers. The students then spend the rest of the day with their classmates in classrooms, where one hour a day is specified for teaching certain subjects. This program includes students of basic classes (Ministry of Education, 2013). The student has the right to enter the resource room in any leisure time when the teacher is available the whole day to help and guide the student. This activity is conducted in addition to the teacher's duty of teaching each class for nearly an hour. In this case, the student is taught 4 days a week (i.e., 4 hours a week). The teacher is available from 8 AM to 2 PM every day to prepare and receive students (Ghanim, 2013).

**(c) King Abdullah the 2<sup>nd</sup> Talented Schools**

The King Abdullah the 2<sup>nd</sup> Talented Schools Mission is to provide specialized academic disciplines to accommodate the variant needs of the talented students, which include both academic and extra-curriculum activities, to enable continuous development of the gifted students' abilities. The desired outcome of the King Abdullah the 2<sup>nd</sup> Talented Schools is to employ the distinctive abilities of the talented students for philanthropic benefits. The length of the school day in King Abdullah the 2<sup>nd</sup> Talented Schools is 8 hours per day, which totals to 40 hours of instructions per week (Jordanian Ministry of Education, 2011).

**Propositions for Developing the Current Services for Talented Students' Programs in Jordan**

The following notes should be taken into account in order to develop Talented Students' programs, as below:

- 1- Expanding the talented students' programs, and expanding service delivery system as well as giving more attention to educational issues that support inclusive schools to integrate talented students into it.
- 2- The establishment of a central body including its function of developing the talented students' programs.
- 3- Teaching a new Talent Enrichment Program as Al-Madinah Program (2016)
- 4- Set up a wide database to cover all the information on talent in Jordan in order to ease the accessibility by the decision-makers and professionals, researchers and others.
- 5- Promote and support local communities to participate in the provision of services for talented students through various media, in order to increase public awareness.
- 6- Providing financial support and finding alternative sources of finance in order to help existing talented students' programs. by developing their services on the one hand and the

foundation of advanced new talented students' programs. in order to expand the circle of the services on the other hand.

### Conclusion

First, this article presents in-depth perception of reality pedagogical educational services Talented students' programs in Jordan . Second, the paper describes about the modern Talent Theories and Talented students in Jordan . Finally, propositions are offered to develop and deliver of service for talented students toward a better society in the future soon.

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